

## '118 SIMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFORMER

and most fervent of all the *Sugol&tres*,\* Paul Meurice, of whom one has already spoken; Eochefort, who reprinted portions of his "Lanternes" in "Le Eappel"; Edouard Lockroy, who subsequently married Charles Hugo's widow, and since those days has been a member of more than one Republican Chamber and Ministry; Laferriere, who under the Eepublic became President of the Council of State, and later Governor-general of Algeria; and finally Zola.

It has already been shown that the latter was by no means a frantic partisan of Victor Hugo; but he was drawn towards the great man's band by circumstances, by an admiration for the poet, which if tempered by his critical sense was within its limits perfectly sincere, and also by a genuine sympathy with the object which the projected newspaper was to further. In one of his earliest contributions to the press, one dealing with Napoleon III's "Life of Csesar," he had shown that he in no wise admired the Man of Destiny. Other early writings, even passages of "Les Contes a Ninon," breathed a spirit incompatible with Bonapartist imperialism. Further, life in the Quartier Latin had helped to republicanise Zola, and when he took to journalism for a livelihood, it was to the

popular opposition press that he naturally turned. Even if "L'Eve'nement" and "Le Figaro" were originally non-political, their tendencies at any rate were against the Empire. Again, "Le Salut Public," of Lyons, was not a government journal, nor was "Le Uaulois," to which Zola contributed several articles on social subjects, literature, and literary men soon

<sup>1</sup> His brother, Charles Vacquerie, after marrying the poet's daughter, Le"opoldine Hugo, had her drowned with her off Yillequier, in 1843.